

New Passport Rules for Summer Travel in the Western Hemisphere

If you have applied for a passport to travel within the Western Hemisphere between now and September 30th, 2007, the State Department has announced that those who have applied for, but not yet received their passports, may depart and re-enter the United States using a photo ID and official proof of application for a passport. **However – you must also meet the entry requirements for the country to which you plan to travel. To be sure you will be able to continue with your travel plans, please verify the entry requirements of the country to which you are traveling at the State Department's website:**

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html

You can access your passport application online here –

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status/status_2567.html and follow the links to the “Online Application Status Check”. Once you have entered your information and received the status of your application, print out a copy of what you see on the screen – this will serve as your “official proof of application for a passport”.

For more information about the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and its temporary suspension, please visit -

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_3254.html

If you are traveling within the Western Hemisphere and need to check the entry
If you are not traveling within the Western Hemisphere and need to receive your passport within the next 14 days, please fill out Senator Mikulski's Privacy Act Release for Passports and fax it to the Baltimore Office - (410) 962-4760

For a copy of the Passport Privacy Act Release, go to:

<http://mikulski.senate.gov/pdfs/passportPAR.pdf>.